(b) to (e) In view of dis-continuation of the scheme the question does not arise.

Recommendation of Standing Committee on NPK Ratio

8313. SHRI NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring the consumption pattern of NKP fertilizers to the ideal ratio of 4:2:1;

(b) if so, the reasons for deterioration in the ratio since the decontrol of P&K in 1992; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this Kharif season to support P&K consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has been making continous efforts to achieve the ideal 4:2:1 NPK ratio.

(b) NPK ratio widened after decontrol of Phosphatic and Potassic fertilisers in 1992, as their consumption declined due to increase in their prices.

(c) In order to support P & K consumption in Kharif season also, Government have taken following measures to narrow down the NPK ratio:—

(i) The scheme for Concessions on the sale of Phosphatic and Potassic Fertilizers initiated after decontrol of these fertilisers during 1992-93 is continued since then.

(ii) A scheme on Balanced and Integrated use of Fertilisers has been taken up during the 8th Plan under which integrated use of nutrients through the use of organic manure, bio-fertilisers and micro-nutrients is promoted alongwith the use of chemical nutrients.

(iii) National Project on Development of Fertiliser Use in Low Consumption and Rainfed Areas has been taken up during 1994-95, under which green manure as well as integrated nutrient system is promoted.

(iv) Under the National Project on Development and Use of Bio-fertilisers, the production, distribution and use of bio-fertilisers is promoted.

(v) States are advised to organise training programme for education of farmers about balanced fertiliser use.

Schemes to gve Incentives flod Cash Crop

8314. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch any schme in the State of Punjab to give more incentives and assistance for cash crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to give benefits to the farmers of the Punjab State during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (d) The on-going Centrally Sponsored Schemes like Intensive Cotton Development Programme and Oilseed Production Programme are implemented to benefit the farmers of Punjab during VIIIth Five Year Plan. In addition, it has also been proposed to